

REMARKS

Previously, responsive to the requirement for restriction, applicants elected Group I, claims 1-6, 8 and 9, drawn to a process, without traverse. Non-elected article claim 7 was canceled.

Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-9 were examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Official Action stated that there was no antecedent basis for "the outlet of production of the reinforcement", and suggested adding language to introduce the outlet and the reinforcement.

Responsively, claim 5 has been amended. The other claims have been amended as to form. New claims have been added that are directed to the elected Group I. No new matter is entered by way of these amendments.

Withdrawal of this rejection is solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fowler (US 6447705).

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Flonc (US 5080851).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowler.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flonc.

Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flonc as applied to claims 1,4 and 5 above, and further in view of Fowler.

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swift (WO 94/26505 A 1) in view of either one of Adams (US 4349599) or Freeman (US 5000990), and further into a Flonc.

Traverse

Fowler

Fowler discusses Flonc (US 5080851) as disclosing a method to manufacture a complex composite article. This complex composite article is made of two layers bounded together by a hot melt glue, located therebetween, so that the new double layers raw material may be cut at a desired size.

Thereafter, each cut portion may be formed by heating the cut portion to melt the glue, the cut portion is shaped on a mandrel as desired and when the glue re-solidifies the portion keeps the shape of the mandrel. This method is very interesting in obtaining a shaped portion of a multilayered armature before introducing said portion in a mold to manufacture a composite piece by introducing resin.

In the Fowler "Summary of Invention" the cited passages Column 2, lines 13-30 and lines 55-67 are not relevant to the present invention because Fowler addresses the problem of how to shape a portion of armature made of several layers.

The technical method of Fowler is different from the present invention. Note that the bounding product is different. Fowler is using a thermoplastic catalyst-containing resin. When the two sheets are applied one on the other, under a hot press on a mandrel, the polymerization reaction begins to provide a *perform*.

Fowler column 3, lines 1-17 is about the manufacturing of a composite product by introducing the shaped *perform* in a mold, closing the mold and flowing resin in the mold.

In summary, the problem in Fowler is how to conform an armature to put it in a mould and to have it a right position and to maintain it until the closing of this mould. The Fowler solution is to have at least two layers bounded together and be

able to move one from the other to conform them on a mandrel and to keep these layers in this shaped form of the mandrel.

In contrast, in the present invention, the problem is how to maintain an armature to put it in a mould and to have it a right position and to maintain it until the closing of the mould. The present invention's solution is to depose, on at least one of the exterior surfaces of the material, a repositionable glue to form a tack with the mould.

In Fowler, there is no glue deposited on the surface of the material. The glue is deposited on one face of each layer to bind the layers face-to-face as jelly binds two slices of bread in a jelly sandwich. As such, the glue is in the middle of the sandwich.

Before introducing the obtained Fowler product into the mould, there is NO glue on any exterior surface of the material/sandwich.

Thus, what Fowler teaches is to use glue on the interior surface of the material layers to obtain an adhered-together sandwich product.

Further, there would be no reason to put a glue on the exterior of the obtained sandwich product as the Fowler mould walls are shaped to the final product. Adding glue to the exterior surface would be a disadvantage in Fowler.

Further, Fowler does not disclose the use of a repositionable glue. Rather, Fowler discloses the use of a hot-melt with solidification glue or a catalyzed resin.

Thus, the claimed invention is both novel and non-obvious over Fowler.

Flonc

Flonc is discussed in Fowler and is only different from Fowler in the glue being used.

In Flonc, there is no glue deposited on the surface of the material. Flonc neither anticipates nor renders obvious the present invention.

The references further do not teach the recited separator use or the forming of a tack with the mould.

The claims are both novel and non-obvious over Fowler and Flonc.

Swift

As amended, the claims are believed to be non-obvious over the combination relying on Swift.

Swift is not found to teach the recited repositionable glue on an exterior surface of the armature material.

As to the new claims, nor does Swift teach or require the glue being used as a tack with the mould or the separator over the glue prior to placement in the mould.

The secondary references do not cure these defects.

Thus, the claims are believed to be patentable over this combination.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are therefore respectfully requested.

This response is believed to be fully responsive and to put the case in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment, and an early and favorable action on the merits, are earnestly requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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